Srinagar road got blocked and the tourists had to depend exclusively on air travel but they could not perform the journey due to non-availability of seats in spite of additional services introduced by Indian Airlines during this period thus deeply affecting the Tourist Industry in Kashmir;

(c) whether the difficulties as mentioned in (a) above are due to shortage of aircraft and what steps have been taken by Government to augment the air fleet in the Indian Airlines; and

(d) what permanent solution Government have in view to ameliorate the difficulties of intending tourist to Kashmir in view of the undependable nature of the Jammu/Srinagar road and also due to perennial problem of non-availability of seats in this sector for a considerable period during a year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) There is no lack of seats in aircraft on Delhi/Srinagar and Jammu/Srinagar sector.

(b) Besides scheduled services, Indian Airlines also operated a number of additional services to meet the traffic demand to the extent possible.

(c) and (d) 19 Airbus A 320 aircraft ordered by Indian Airlines would be delivered during 1989-90. With the induction of these aircraft, Indian Airlines would be catering to the traffic demand in a more satisfactory manner between Delhi-Srinagar and Jammu-Srinagar. However, Indian Airlines operates additional flights subject to the availability of suitable aircraft to meet the increased tourist demand as and when required. Besides, charter flights are also allowed for group tourists.

Status of Hotel Management and Catering Technology-Diploma

650. SHRI M. VINCENT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the Institutes of Hotel Management and Catering Technology in the country are placed on equal status in regard to courses of study and award of Diplomas;

(b) whether the strength of the teaching staff, their recruitment, salaries and emoluments and service regulations are equal and comparable to that of first grade colleges under the University Grants Commission;

(c) whether Government propose to take steps to chart out a comparative service regulations, pay scales and emoluments for the staff of the institutions, keeping in view the scales of the University Grants Commission; and

(d) if not, what other steps Government are going to take to remove the present stagnation of the existing appointees, when compared to the service conditions available in Hotel Industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No Sir. The service conditions and salary structure of staff in uniform for all these technical institutes and is based on the nature of work and the recommendations of the Central Pay Commissions.

(c) There is no such proposal at present.

(d) Working conditions and the nature of work in the Institutes are quite different from that of the Hotel Industry. With the implementation of the recommendations of the Fourth Pay Commission for the employees of the Institutes there is no question of any stagnation at present.

Representation against changing the time of Mahalakshmi Express from Miraj to Bombay

651. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received representations against changing the time of Mahalakshmi Express from Miraj to Bombay; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to continue the status quo